



File Code: 1950

Date: JUL 18 2019

Dear Friend of the Ashley:

The High Uintas Wilderness Colorado River Cutthroat Trout Habitat Enhancement Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) and Draft Record of Decision (Draft ROD) are now available for review. The Final EIS and Draft ROD are being sent to individuals and organizations who commented on the draft environmental impact statement. These documents also will be available on the project-specific website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=31640>

Background of the Project

This cooperative project between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Ashley National Forest proposes using rotenone in selected streams and lakes to remove the nonnative aquatic species that compete with native trout. Treatments would occur upstream of existing fish migration barriers and would allow for successful reintroduction of native Colorado River cutthroat trout.

The project proposes to treat approximately 50 miles of streams and approximately 318 acres of lakes within the headwaters of Rock Creek, Lake Fork, and the Yellowstone River in the High Uintas Wilderness Area. The project would begin in the summer of 2022 and would continue over a 10- to 15-year period. Because the project proposes the use of a piscicide—in this case, rotenone—in a designated wilderness area, I have been given delegated authority from the Regional Forester to be the responsible official.

Administrative Review Opportunities

This project is subject to the objection process as found in subparts A and B of 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 218. Only individuals or organizations who submitted timely and specific written comments regarding this proposed project during a designated opportunity for public comment are eligible to file an objection to this draft decision (see 36 CFR 218.2).

Issues that are raised in objections must be based on previously submitted comments, unless new information arose after the designated opportunities to comment. If individual members of organizations want to submit their own objections, they must have submitted their own comments during the scoping and comment period. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered those of the organization only.

If an objection is submitted on behalf of multiple individuals or organizations, each individual or organization listed must meet the eligibility requirement of having previously submitted comments on the project (see 36 CFR 218.7). Names and addresses of objectors will become part of the public record.



Incorporation of documents by reference in the objection is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b). Minimum content requirements of an objection, identified in 36 CFR 218.8(d), include:

- Objector's name and address, telephone number if available, and signature or other verification of authorship upon request.
- Identification of the lead objector when multiple names are listed, along with verification upon request.
- Name of project, name and title of the responsible official, national forest/ranger district of project.
- Sufficient narrative description of those aspects of the proposed project objected to, specific issues related to the project, how environmental law, regulation, or policy would be violated, and suggested remedies which would resolve the objection.
- Statement demonstrating the connection between prior specific written comments on this project and the content of the objection, unless the objection issue arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

Objections must be submitted in writing via mail, fax, email, or hand-delivery. Objections must be submitted or postmarked within 45 days of the publication date of the legal notice of opportunity to object in *The Salt Lake Tribune*, which is the newspaper of record. The publication date in *The Salt Lake Tribune* is the exclusive means to determine the start of the objection period. The objection reviewing officer is the Chief of the Forest Service.

Objections may be submitted via:

Delivery via UPS, FedEx, and in person at (Note: objections may be hand-delivered to this address between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays):

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer
210 14th Street, SW
EMC-PEEAR, Mailstop 1104
Washington, DC 20250

Regular U. S. Postal Service mail:

USDA Forest Service
Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer
1400 Independence Ave., SW
EMC-PEEAR, Mailstop 1104
Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-791-8488 (Note: This is the main phone line for carrier deliveries and is staffed during regular business hours.)

Fax: 801-625-5277

Email: objections-chief@fs.fed.us

Electronic objections may be submitted in the body of an email message or in a common attachment format such as .doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt, .rtf, or .html. Please include the project name in the subject line of your email. Objectors are responsible for ensuring that objections are received or postmarked before the close of the objection period.

Implementation

If no objections are received or postmarked by the close of the 45-day objection period, the final record of decision may be signed and implemented no sooner than the fifth business day following the close of the objection period.

If an objection is filed, the final record of decision cannot be signed or implemented until the objection reviewing officer has responded in writing to all objections.

Further Information

For additional information about the project and the draft decision, please contact:

Ron Brunson, Team Leader, (435) 828-5966 (rbrunson@fs.fed.us)
Kristy Groves, District Ranger, (435) 781-5203 (kgroves@fs.fed.us)

For information about the objection review process, please contact:

Pete Gomben, Administrative Review Coordinator, (801) 625-5069 (pgomben@fs.fed.us)

Sincerely,



MARY FARNSWORTH
Deputy Regional Forester